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 Marquette, MI



CENTRAL LAKE SUPERIOR LAND CONSERVANCY

Volume 5, Issue 4
 WINTER /2006-07

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Protecting Upper Peninsula Lands and Places for a Sustainable Future

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**Acres
 Protected
 to Date:
 2,000**

Harris Lake Conservation Easement

Mark & Christine Troutd of Oshkosh, WI have placed a conservation easement on their 50 acre property to ensure that it stays in its current natural state forever. This property contains 90% of Harris Lake frontage and is located in Republic Township, Marquette County. The parcel contains significant wetlands and riparian areas which are important for water quality and biological diversity. The property is prime habitat for moose, wood duck, and the rare dragon's mouth orchid. Once owned by MEAD paper, in the 1920's red and white pine trees were planted around Harris Lake by CCC crews. Today these trees are large and impressive, adding an old growth dynamic to the forest. Aside from maintaining a small cabin overlooking the lake, the Troutds intend to let the forest on this excellent example of conservation lands move through successional cycles in perpetuity without human intervention.



Expanded Tax Incentives for Conservation Easements

Conservation easement donations now qualify for increased federal tax incentives after a new bill, H.R. 4, was signed this past summer. The new provisions, currently effective for 2006 and 2007, are designed to offer increased tax incentives to make donating land easier and to protect the incentives from being abused.

- The bill features many changes. Of significant importance to land owners, the new law:
- Raises the maximum deduction a donor can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) in any year to 50%;
 - Allows qualified farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their AGI; and
 - Increases the number of years over which a donor can take deductions from 6 years to 16 years.

This is a great benefit to CLSLC, as well as other land trusts, because it offers the opportunity to easily obtain and protect more land in the Upper Peninsula. It also offers landowners, who might not have been able to make donations before this new law, to donate their land with more ease and better incentives.

The law is currently set to expire at the end of 2007. While many organizations are working towards an extension of the new law, it is recommended that you take advantage of the new bill by the end of 2007.

For more information, go to www.lta.org/publicpolicy/tax_incentives_updates.htm. To find out how this new law could benefit your future donation to the CLSLC, contact Jackie Kosey at 906-225-8067.



Mission Statement

The mission of the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy is to promote the protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic, and scenic lands through the use of conservation easements, land donations, and education.

What is a Conservation Easement?

A conservation easement is a legal agreement between you and a land trust or conservation group which places restrictions on the land use in perpetuity. An easement is a practical way to protect property, retain ownership, and to sell it or pass it on to heirs.

CLSLC Merchandise

Are you out of Christmas gift ideas?
 Tired of ordinary gifts?

The CLSLC has a great gift idea!

For family and friends that love the outdoors, give them a CLSLC bug hat! This hat is great for all activities! Pull down the bug net from under the brim and you're ready for any season in the UP! Choose from tan or dark green. Also, if you make a donation of \$100 or more in the name of that family member, we will give you the hat for free!

Contact the Conservancy for more information!

Thank you to Northland Outfitters in Germfask for making our bug hats!



Conservancy Wish List:

- Four-wheel drive vehicle to conduct fieldwork
- Lap-top computer and projector—used for presentations
- Volunteers for stewardship monitoring on properties

Debelak Donation

Donation of the John, Patricia and Johnny Debelak Preserve, located near Chatham, MI, to the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy was completed in October 2006. The preserve, a forest consisting of 50-60 year old maples, three streams and countless memories for the Debelak family will be forever protected from subdivision, clear cutting of forest stands or further fragmentation.

Patricia Debelak wanted to find a way to preserve the land her family loved for generations to come. The CLSLC, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to land conservation, took ownership of the preserve as part of their mission to promote the protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic and scenic lands.

To better fulfill the vision of the Debelak family, the CLSLC is working with the Marquette County Conservation District forester and the Michigan Natural Features Inventory to survey the property and develop a management plan that maximizes the natural values it can provide to the central Upper Peninsula.

For more information about the CLSLC or the Debelak Preserve, visit www.clslc.org, or contact Jackie Kosey at 906-225-8067 or clscl@charterinternet.com.



Mame Croze Fall Intern

During the past semester, Mame Croze has been working with the CLSLC as the Public Relations Intern. Originally from Milwaukee, WI, Mame will be graduating this month from NMU. She has interned for a number of non-profit organizations and especially enjoyed the experiences she had assisting the CLSLC as she has a love for the Upper Peninsula. After college, Mame will be taking some time to travel and will then pursue a career in the public relations field.

The CLSLC Board of Directors

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CLSLC Partners 2006

Environmental Protection
Agency-Great Lakes National
Program Office

Charles Stewart Mott
Foundation

Land Trust Alliance Midwest
Lake Superior Land Trust
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The Nature Conservancy-
Upper Peninsula Office
Marquette County
Conservation District

Vision Statement

The Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy (CLSLC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit group founded in 1998 to help further environmental sustainability in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan through the promotion of conservation-based land use and ownership. To ensure that the character of our region is maintained the CLSLC facilitates the protection of natural, agricultural, recreational, historic, and scenic lands for environmental conservation. Through protection tools such as conservation easements and land donation, the CLSLC assists the region to realize that local economic development should be well planned, visually pleasing, ecologically sound, and conducted in an environmentally benign manner. By encouraging regional stakeholders to accept personal responsibility for conserving what is best in our natural environment, the CLSLC helps promote greater collective ownership in the Central Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

Yuletide Greetings from the CLSLC Board

During the Yuletide, we often pause to reflect upon the past year, thankful for the many blessings that have come our way. Among those joys, I imagine that you may be grateful that you live in an area rich in resources such as clean water and bountiful forests. We at your local conservancy are thankful (indeed, even indebted) that YOU, our members, share the same values as we do and are willing to generously support our conservation efforts. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, and because of your continuing support, we have been able to considerably increase the acreage we preserve in the Upper Peninsula, further enhance the habitats and species at risk we hope to conserve, and positively affect the cherished quality of life we seek to protect. So, in the spirit of the season and on behalf of our Board of Directors, I want to stress how much we value your ongoing support and efforts on behalf of land protection in our region. Here's wishing you and yours the very best for the coming year!

Jim Cantrill, President
Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy



PIPING PLOVER UPDATE

The Great Lakes Piping Plover population continues to increase in Grand Marais, Michigan since the CLSLC received a two-year grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help protect the federally endangered shorebird. The grant, which expanded the program into two new areas of the Upper Peninsula, achieved 100 percent success in fledging all chicks that hatched during the two-year program. Jean Carpenter, the piping plover monitor and stewardship coordinator for Grand Marais, was responsible for monitoring plovers on a daily basis, coordinating volunteers, and interacting with landowners. In 2005, there were 58 breeding

pairs in the Great Lakes and in 2006, 53 breeding pairs were documented. A record number of volunteer hours contributed to the fledging of all chicks and the protection of the federally endangered bird.

Efforts to increase the population will be maintained through continued education and monitoring. The increase in interested landowners and locals willing to donate their time maintains the positive outcome that began as a result of the grant. Other organizations involved in the success are the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park



Service, U.S. Forest Service, Michigan DNR, Wisconsin DNR and Lake Superior State University.

THE PRICE OF PERPETUAL STEWARDSHIP

One of the reasons the land trust movement has grown so much in the past 20 years is due to the promise organizations such as the CLSLC make in the name of land protection. Each time we file a Conservation Easement Agreement (CEA) or accept a donation-in-fee of land, we further cement our relationship to the people of the Upper Peninsula by guaranteeing that these resources thus transferred to our care will indefinitely be protected. This is a commitment we make to ourselves, an obligation we have to state and federal governments, and a contract we enter into with landowners.

Yet perpetuity is a very long time and, given the uncertainties of the future, your local conservancy must be able to demonstrate that we have the means to monitor the lands entrusted to our protection. For this reason, early in our negotiations with landowners we ask landowners seeking to transfer or protect their holdings through our non-profit services to promise to make a "stewardship donation" to the CLSLC each time we begin negotiating the provisions of a pending CEA or donation-in-fee. These voluntary contributions-typically 10% of either the total assessed value of the parcel or of the difference between the pre-CEA and the and the post-CEA appraisal of the property's worth-help insure that we can engage in annual monitoring and conservation efforts on the land, as well as be in a position to pursue legal remedies if future landowners violate easement restrictions or encroachments are made on preserves we own. The federal government requires that we be able to show we have the wherewithal to do so, and our full accreditation in the eyes of the larger land trust community

depends on it. More importantly, the citizens we serve demand that we can, indeed, keep our word to protect various conservation values in perpetuity.

Because the need for stewardship funding is so crucial to our operations, we at the CLSLC have recently increased our efforts to inform potential clients of the nature and necessity of the donation as soon as we are contacted for assistance. Unfortunately, many of those wanting to work with us, especially people wanting a CEA placed on their land, balk at the thought of paying an out-of-pocket expense to indefinitely protect the lands they love. But conservation does not come cheap, even to those who recognize the precious and often precarious nature of natural resources, and there really can be no "free riders" when we balance the trade-off between future development and resource preservation. However, this does not mean that a landowner need be unduly burdened in doing the right thing by the land. The federal government allows for significant tax deductions for qualifying donations and easements (see related article in this issue) which can more than off-set the cost of the stewardship donation. And, since each CEA or donation-in-fee is evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the CLSLC, there are a number of creative ways in which the voluntary contribution can be structured.

If you or one of your friends is interested in a conservation easement or land donation, yet remains concerned about the price to be paid for perpetual stewardship, please contact us at our offices. We would be happy to discuss conservation needs and options so that we can, together, forge a win-win situation.

Your Membership is critical to the CLSLC

A membership donation to the CLSLC is a gift that is invested in the permanent protection of one of our most threatened resources-open space. Thank you to all of our current members for your generous contributions. To those not currently members of the CLSLC, we hope you will consider joining an organization that helps protect of the natural character that makes the Upper Peninsula so unique and appealing. Your support makes a difference! We hope you will support the CLSLC again in 2006!

Yes, I want to help the Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy protect the natural beauty of our area!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Phone (h): _____ Phone (w): _____

E-mail: _____

Do we have permission to print your name in our newsletter or other materials?

- YES
 NO

Complete both sides of this form and return to:

Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy
 P.O. Box 7135
 Marquette, MI 49855

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 Krista & Jim Clumpner
 Joel & Susan Petersen
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 Daniel & Lori Kill
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 Don Tinson
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 Maria Formolo
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2006 Members Thank you!

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Jennifer Jo Mueller

Protector \$1000+

Jim Cantrill & Beth Casady
 William & Kathleen Davis
 William & Joanna Stein

Marquette Community Foundation Contributors

Bruce Ventura & Tina Hall
 Mr. & Mrs. Davis Allen
 Joanna Mitchell

Thanks for your generous support in the name of land conservation in 2006. If, in this season of plenty, you have the means and desire to make an additional contribution as a valued member of your local conservancy, please know that you have our deepest gratitude. However, even if you feel that you cannot make any more tax-deductible contributions this year, know that we at the CLSLC remain in your debt. YOU are our best ambassador, and we encourage you to keep land conservation in mind throughout 2007.

CHEERS!!!!
 The CLSLC Board of Directors



Please accept my financial donation for the following category of membership of the Conservancy:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15-\$29 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500+ Benefactor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30-\$49 Regular Member | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000+ Protector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50-\$99 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2500+ Trustee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100-\$249 Supporter | <input type="checkbox"/> \$5000+ Director's Circle |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250-\$499 Sponsor | other _____ |

Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy is a 501 (c) (3) organization established May 1999. Contributions are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Central Lake Superior Land Conservancy.

- I own land in the Upper Peninsula and am interested in learning more about how I can help protect the natural beauty of our area through the establishment of a conservation easement or land donation.
- I am interested in volunteering for the conservancy.

Complete both sides of this form and return to:

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